

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 51

BY STATE AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND COMMEMORATING AND HONORING THE CON-
2 TRIBUTIONS OF IDAHO VETERANS OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO SERVED IN VIETNAM,
3 AND ENCOURAGING THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF IDAHO TO OBSERVE "WELCOME
4 HOME VIETNAM VETERANS DAY" WITH CEREMONIES AND ACTIVITIES THAT PROMOTE
5 AWARENESS OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR VIETNAM WAR VETERANS AND THE IM-
6 PORTANCE OF HELPING IDAHO VIETNAM VETERANS READJUST TO CIVILIAN LIFE.
7

8 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was fought in Vietnam from 1961 to 1975, and in-
10 volved North Vietnam and the Viet Cong in conflict with United States Armed
11 Forces and South Vietnam; and

12 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces began serving in an
13 advisory role to the South Vietnamese in 1961; and

14 WHEREAS, Congress overwhelmingly passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution
15 on August 7, 1964, which handed over war making powers to President Johnson
16 until peace and security returned to Vietnam; and

17 WHEREAS, in 1965, United States Armed Forces ground combat units ar-
18 rived in Vietnam; and

19 WHEREAS, by the end of 1965, there were 80,000 United States troops in
20 Vietnam and by 1969 a peak of approximately 543,000 troops was reached; and

21 WHEREAS, on January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed, requiring
22 the release of all United States prisoners of war held in North Vietnam and
23 the withdrawal of all United States Armed Forces from South Vietnam; and

24 WHEREAS, on March 30, 1973, the United States Armed Forces completed the
25 withdrawal of combat troops from Vietnam; and

26 WHEREAS, the Vietnam War was an extremely divisive issue among the peo-
27 ple of the United States; and

28 WHEREAS, members of the United States Armed Forces who served bravely
29 and faithfully for the United States during the Vietnam War were, upon their
30 return home, caught in the crossfire of public debate about the involvement
31 of the United States in the Vietnam War; and

32 WHEREAS, 216 members of the United States Armed Forces from Idaho were
33 killed and 8 were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

34 WHEREAS, approximately 42,810 Vietnam veterans currently reside in
35 Idaho; and

36 WHEREAS, numerous memorials have been dedicated throughout the state of
37 Idaho to commemorate the members of the United States Armed Forces from Idaho
38 who died or were declared missing in action in Vietnam; and

39 WHEREAS, The establishment of an Idaho "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans
40 Day" would be a fitting way to honor our state's brave and loyal veterans who
41 served in Vietnam during the war; and

42 WHEREAS, March 30, 2014, is an appropriate day to establish as "Welcome
43 Home Vietnam Veterans Day."

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the Second Regular
2 Session of the Sixty-second Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives
3 and the Senate concurring therein, that we commemorate and honor the con-
4 tributions of Idaho veterans of the Armed Forces who served in Vietnam, and
5 encourage the people of the state of Idaho to observe "Welcome Home Vietnam
6 Veterans Day" with ceremonies and activities that promote awareness of the
7 contributions of our Vietnam War veterans and the importance of helping
8 Idaho Vietnam veterans readjust to civilian life.